

# NOTICE OF INTENT

## Department of Health and Hospitals Office of Public Health

### Bacteriological Laboratory Certification

(Editor's Note: The following Notice of Intent is being republished to include certain text which was erroneously omitted when published on pages 247-248 of the March, 1996 *Louisiana Register*.. The Office of Public Health intends to continue with rulemaking, as provided for in R.S. 49:950 et seq., using March 20, 1996 as the rule proposal date. There are no changes to the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement.)

In accordance with R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health proposes to establish a certification program to approve private laboratories to provide bacteriological analytical services needed to aid owners of individual water supplies in Louisiana in assuring that drinking waters are bacteriologically safe.

Because no funding has been allocated for this certification program and no fee is currently being collected for provision of the service, this program will be implemented pursuant to a prioritization of functions within the Division of Laboratories and to the extent permitted by current funding and staff resources. Higher priority workload activities will be accomplished first. The Division of Laboratories will consider each request for certification by a private laboratory in the order in which the requests are received, with prioritization given to the need for bacteriological analytical services in the particular locale. Each individual will be responsible for paying the private laboratory for the analytical services provided.

Laboratories seeking certification pursuant to this proposed rule will be certified in accordance with regulations contained in a proposed Department of Health and Hospitals manual for the certification of laboratories analyzing drinking water. A copy of the proposed manual will be available for inspection at the following locations:

REGION I	Metropolitan	3308 Tulane Avenue Fifth Floor New Orleans, LA 70119
REGION II	Capitol	1772 Wooddale Boulevard Baton Rouge, LA 70806
REGION III	Tech	206 East Third Street Drawer 1369 Thibodaux, LA 70301
REGION IV	Acadian	825 Kaliste Saloom, Suite 100 Lafayette, LA 70508
REGION V	Southwest	4240 Legion Street Box 16826 Lake Charles, LA 70615
REGION VI	Central	1335 Jackson Street Box 4207 Alexandria, LA 71301
REGION VII	Northwest	Allen Memorial State Office Building Fifth Floor 1525 Fairfield Avenue Shreveport, LA 71101-4388
REGION VIII	Northeast	2913 Betin Street Box 6118 Monroe, LA 71201
REGION IX	Southeast	520 Old Spanish Trail Slidell, LA 70459

Interested persons may submit written comments to: Dr. Henry Bradford, Laboratory Director, DHH/OPH, Box 60630, New Orleans, LA 70160. Such comments will be received until the close of business April 28, 1996. A public hearing on the proposed change will be held at 10:30 a.m., April 24, 1996, in the State Office Building Conference Room, 150 Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. All interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to submit data, views or arguments, orally or in writing at said hearing.

Bobby P. Jindal  
Secretary

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

**FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**  
**RULE TITLE: Bacteriological Laboratory Certification**

**I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)**

There is no impact on local governmental units. The bacteriological certification program will be implemented to the extent funding and staffing resources permit.

**II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)**

It is estimated that 15 laboratories will seek certification under this program. It is anticipated that these laboratories will request certification for both Total Coliform, Fecal\E. coli and heterotrophic plate count analyses. There is currently no fee in place for certifying these laboratories. At the earliest opportunity, authorization for the collection of fees relative to the certification program will be requested.

**III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)**

Individual with new or rebuilt domestic well that must test their drinking water and contract laboratories providing the analytical services are affected by this rule. It is not possible to estimate how many individual need testing done, and how much the laboratories will charge for their analytical services.

**IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)**

Competition between laboratories to provide these analytical services will drive the price of the analysis down which benefits the individual paying for the testing. Employment opportunities in the laboratories may increase as a result of this rule.

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